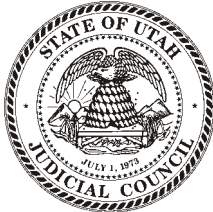


ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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NEWS RELEASE



Christine M. Durham
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The Utah State Courts are committed to open, fair, and independent justice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2005

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DISTRICT COURT INFORMATION

The West Jordan Courthouse will be a full-service District Court location. Felony and Class A misdemeanor cases will be filed within Salt Lake County based on the location of the offense ([see attached map](#)).

Uncontested probate matters filed at the West Jordan Courthouse will be heard on the Wednesday morning calendars at the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse. In addition, protective order hearings will be heard on the protective order calendars at the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse.

Third District Court is located on the third floor of the new courthouse. Judge Robert Adkins, Judge Pat Brian, Judge Terry Christiansen, and Judge Royal Hansen will occupy the four courtrooms. A District Court commissioner will occupy a fifth courtroom on the second floor of the courthouse. The Third District Court Trial Court Executive is Peggy Gentles. Thirty-four employees will relocate to the new courthouse.

A court commissioner will conduct hearings in domestic matters beginning August 2005.

JUVENILE COURT INFORMATION

Third District Juvenile Court is located on the second floor of the new courthouse. Judge Christine Decker, Judge Elizabeth Lindsley, Judge Dane Nolan, and Commissioner William Russell will occupy the four courtrooms. The Third District Juvenile Court Trial Court Executive is Bruce Thomas.

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The judges assigned to the West Jordan Courthouse will hear all case types filed in Third District Juvenile Court. Commissioners in the Juvenile Court carry a specialized workload, including minor misdemeanor offenses, status (offenses illegal only for children), and traffic matters.

Prior to West Jordan Courthouse completion, the Juvenile Court in Salt Lake County had no courtrooms in which to expand. The completion of the West Jordan Courthouse will accommodate expected juvenile caseload increases in Salt Lake County for the next seven to ten years. These courtrooms are located in an area where caseloads are expected to grow—the southwest part of the Salt Lake valley.

Delinquency cases in this jurisdiction are assigned by zip code location of a family's home address ([see enclosed map](#)). These zip code locations are adjacent to the courthouse locations—Matheson in the north and West Jordan in the south—and are divided by a north-south boundary line.

Juvenile Court jurisdictions are established by statute and pertain to all criminal activity committed by minor children. These include offenses illegal only for children, limited traffic violations committed by children, child welfare (the abuse or neglect of children), protective actions involving children, and adult offenses contributing to the delinquency or truancy of children. A typical Third District Juvenile Court judge will hear approx. 1,700 new delinquency matters and 2,700 post judgment matters during a calendar year. The commissioner will hear about 3,800 new filings and 3,400 post judgment minor cases.

The Juvenile Court has its own juvenile probation department. The West Jordan Courthouse will have three juvenile probation officer teams assigned to the building. The probation officers conduct investigations into criminal offenses committed by children that are referred to the court. The officers make recommendations to the court regarding the best interest of the children. They also supervise continuing court orders when young offenders are placed on probation or in community programs where monitoring and reporting to the court is necessary to evaluate progress and community safety.

Judicial support staff located in the new West Jordan Courthouse will include 25 probation officers and 17 clerks. Probation officers include 12 intake probation officers and 13 field probation officers who supervise youth in the community. Third District Juvenile Court places approx. 1,200 to 1,400 youth on probation each year and supervises about 800 at any one time.

The Third District Juvenile Court—Salt Lake, Tooele, and Summit counties—comprise slightly more than 40 percent of the statewide delinquency filings and slightly less of the total filings before the Juvenile Court in Utah. The nine judges and one commissioner heard about 19,000 new filings and more than 28,000 post judgment hearings in calendar year 2004. Over the last seven years, this judicial workload has ranked the highest or second highest among Utah judges.